

# Beach Cities Democrats

P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

September 2019

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 25, 7:00PM  
Hermosa Beach Community Center  
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our program will feature Danielle Anderson from the Generation Blue Political Fund, and Courtney Lingle, from South Bay Cares. Generation Blue is the political arm of South Bay Cares. Their voter engagement task force is focused on electing more Democrats to local, state and national offices. Their most immediate goal is to support those running in local races in the upcoming elections. To do so we will partner with like-minded organizations and local clubs to educate and encourage voters by:

- Registering voters
- Staffing phone banks
- Canvassing neighborhoods
- Writing postcards

The other important business to be conducted at this meeting will be sign-ups for volunteers for our Beach Cities Democrats booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, October 7-8.

For more information about Beach Cities Democrats and upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.BeachCitiesDems.org](http://www.BeachCitiesDems.org).

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday the 25th at our September meeting!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto  
President,  
Beach Cities  
Democrats



During our discussions on what to do about our August meeting that coincided with Ted Lieu's town hall, our biggest concern was having a quorum (which is 10 members). Our active and growing membership not only helped fill Ted Lieu's town hall, but we ended up having just under 30 members, including several new faces, attend our shortened meeting. I want to just thank you for being such passionate, dedicated members of our group. Earlier this month, Hermosa Beach hosted Fiesta Hermosa and we had a table in the Free Speech Area. We had enthusiastic members staff the table all three days and educate attendees

about our Democratic values. As we look forward, we will need volunteers to staff a table for Manhattan Beach's Hometown Fair.

On September 12, the Trump administration announced the latest repeal of a major environmental protection, clean water regulations. During a time in our nation's history when drinking water is causing a major health crisis, these regulatory roll-backs seem only to protect corporate lobbyists, instead of the most vulnerable citizens in our country. The destruction of our water supply upstream will trickle down to have major impacts on our water supplies downstream. Over the past few months, this administration has reduced regulations on methane emissions, changed energy-efficient standards in light bulbs and advocated for opening oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

*(continued on page 2)*



Beach Cities Democrats staff our booth at Fiesta Hermosa over the Labor Day weekend. Above: Tony Hale, Dency Nelson, Mark Drabkin, Mike Deto, Bobbi Buescher

Visit our Website at [beachcitiesdems.org](http://beachcitiesdems.org). Like us On Facebook

(continued from page 1)

My passion for protecting our environment started with my experiences hiking and backpacking. Pack it in, pack it out means we need to minimize our waste while we operate in the backcountry and take it with us when we leave. This also applies more broadly to our responsibility to society. We need to minimize our waste footprint, which is increasingly getting harder in the on-demand, "Amazon delivery" society we live in today. I have seen the devastating effects of climate change while fighting record-breaking wild fires for each of the past 6 years. There are different ideas and solutions being discussed during the Democratic Presidential debates to help curtail climate change but every one of the candidates is united in protecting our precious environment. We need to elect representatives up and down the ticket who believe the climate is changing. But each of us also needs to do our own part in minimizing our waste footprint and leave no trace when we are enjoying our beautiful outdoor spaces. While we may not all be active campers and backpackers, leaving no traces includes our local parks and beaches.



*Representative Ted Lieu speaking at his Town Hall at El Segundo High School Auditorium on August 28*

## August Recap

*By Andrea Valcourt*

Vice President Tony Hale called the meeting to order and said that the meeting will be short, so that folks can attend the Ted Lieu Town Hall in El Segundo. Unfortunately, we couldn't work around the scheduling conflict.

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's report:

Federal PAC	\$2,455
State PAC	\$5,381

The main business was to endorse Democratic City Council candidates and the two ballot measures in the Hermosa Beach November election. Tony said he would be running the meeting because he's not running for City Council.

Tony asked for new members and there were three; one works on campaigns and another wanted to get more involved.

The endorsement vote is as follows. Only members can vote:

- Measure H is for an increase in the Hotel Bed Tax, also called the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which will increase from 12% to 14%.
- Measure CC is to determine if the City Clerk should be appointed, instead of elected.
- City Treasurer may not be on the ballot because only one candidate pulled papers.
- Justin Massey is running for re-election.
- Mike Detoy is running for Jeff Duclos's seat, since Jeff has decided not to run again.

Measure CC discussion: We like to vote for our government officials, but in the case of the City Clerk, it is hard to find qualified candidates who want to run for office. So the City Council wants to appoint a qualified person. Hermosa Beach was lucky to have a qualified clerk who was willing to run for re-election for so many years. An endorsement motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for CC.

Measure H discussion: The proposed

14% tax is lower than LA City's rate and within the local tax rates.

An endorsement motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for Measure H.

Candidate discussion: Justin Massey could not attend and Mike Detoy said a few words about why he was running. Dency Nelson suggested that people read last month's newsletter, which included some information about Mike's background. It was noted that Trent Larson is the third candidate running for City Council. An endorsement motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for both Justin and Mike.

Tony stated that Fiesta Hermosa will be held over the upcoming weekend and we need volunteers to man our both in the Free Speech Area.

Mike thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and voting for him. He asked for announcements.

**Andrew DeBlock representing Al Muratsuchi**

*Editor's note:* For more information on these bills, input <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/> into your browser.

AB 39—Al introduced this bill to amend education financing and it is working its way through the Assembly. Please give it your support.

AB 342—Al introduced this bill to amend leasing laws to prevent new drilling in California and to protect California from Trump's push for offshore drilling here. Please support this bill.

Andrew also thanked those who attended his fundraising event to support his run for Torrance City Council, District 6, also known as the Airport District. The election will be March 3, 2020.

Mike adjourned the meeting.

## Democratic Party News

Tony Hale announced that, at the September 10 meeting of the LA County Democratic Party, the members unanimously endorsed Hermosa Beach ballot measures CC and H. City Council candidates Justin Massey and Michael Detoy were also unanimously endorsed.

## Mock Election

As you may know, LA County is implementing a new voting system for the March 2020 elections. On September 28 and 29, LA County is holding a Mock Election. The Mock Election will stress the whole system, not just the code, but the processes surrounding the system: how the machines are installed, how the ballots are handled at the Voting Center, how the ballots are securely transported to the Downey facility for counting, and how the ballots are counted.

Participating in the Mock Election is as important as voting in 2020, when this system will be implemented. You are invited to be part of history and as a citizen you want to insure our voting machines and processes are functional and safe.

Who can vote? Anyone from age 10 to 110, registered or not. So, bring the whole family.

Who is running? No one. The voting will be for fun things like best ice cream.

Where? 50 Voting Centers will be open around the county. Some centers will have celebrities, prizes and food trucks.

Our local voting center is:

The Clark Building  
861 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach  
September 28 and 29  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

This will be a fun, family-friendly event that is open to the public and invites people of all ages to come and vote on their favorite L.A. sports teams, landmarks, parks and much more!

For more information go to [www.LAVote.net/mock-election](http://www.LAVote.net/mock-election).



*Beach Cities Dems and friends from the 66th ADDC joined together to watch the debate on September 12 at the Schooner Bar & Grill in Redondo Beach*

## Debate Summary

*By Bob Wolfe*

*(Editor's Note: This commentary does not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the BCD membership at large.)*

At a packed Wallis Annenberg Hall for a Democratic debate watching session with USC's Robert Shrum ably moderating a panel of four journalists, political consultants and media gurus, it all went pretty fast and furious for a program that still lasted more than 3-1/2 hours. The upshot from the panelists was that the debate probably would not make that much difference in the

three-tier ranking of the candidates into Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in the top tier, a gang of five (Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke) somewhere in the middle, and Julian Castro and Andrew Yang at the bottom.

I think they probably were spot on about this, although political strategist Bill Carrick predicted that Beto would drop at least one F-bomb, notwithstanding ABC's

*(continued on page 4)*



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*(continued from page 3)*

admonition not to swear. Beto didn't do this, although his "Hell, yeah, we're going to take your AR-15" perhaps came the closest and drew the most attention.

I was most impressed by Amy Klobuchar's and Pete Buttigieg's performances — although I doubt they will get the needed traction in the post-debate spin. Their values were most notably encapsulated in their opening and closing remarks.

Here's how Amy Klobuchar defined her candidacy: "If you feel stuck in the middle of the extremes in our politics and you are tired of the noise and the nonsense, you've got a home with me," she said. "Because I don't want to be the president for half of America — I want to be the president for all of America." She admitted that she was not as glib as she needed to be for TV, but she said that precisely was the problem with Trump: "We have a guy there that is literally running our country like a game show. I think we need something different."

In her closing, she explained why she decided to get into public service. Her father, famed Minnesota columnist Jim Klobuchar, struggled with alcoholism and finally, after 3 DUIs was given a third chance following a painful family intervention. She also talked

about her personal experience with the U.S. healthcare system when she was kicked out of the hospital 24 hours after giving birth, due to the hospital's inflexible rule.

Klobuchar successfully lobbied the Minnesota legislature to change the rules and, following her success, decided to enter politics to allow others to benefit from her experience.

In like fashion, Buttigieg talked about his painful decision to come out, even though he then held public office in a state (Indiana) headed by anti-gay governor Mike Pence: "When I trusted voters to judge me based on the job that I did for them, they decided to trust me and they reelected me with 80% of the vote. And what I learned was that trust can be reciprocated and that part of how you can win and deserve to win is to know what's worth more to you than winning. I think that's what we need in the presidency right now. We have to know what we are about."

I also thought that both Buttigieg and Klobuchar were especially strong in their healthcare proposals, which provide for a non-profit Medicare-like public option that is open to everyone, but which do not require Americans to give up their private insurance should they choose to keep it.

Here's how Buttigieg explained it: "If we're

right, as progressives, that the public alternative is better, then the American people will figure that out for themselves. I trust the American people to make the right choice for them."

Although Sanders and Warren were repeatedly asked why they didn't preserve a right to choose in their Medicare-for-all proposal, neither chose to answer the question. I personally wished they didn't duck and weave this important policy issue. If there are reasons why this must be mandatory, I think they should have respected the viewers and given a rationale (rather than platitudes) why it was necessary to require Americans to give up their employer-sponsored private plans if they chose to retain it.

In a 3-hour debate, this was an answer that deserved to be given.

Finally, a word about Biden. He movingly talked about his personal experiences, both with the tragic death of his first wife and daughter in a car accident, and the subsequent death of his adult son Beau to brain cancer. It's not too often that a presidential candidate quotes from Kierkegaard: "Faith sees best in the dark." And in her pre-debate remarks, panelist Christina Bellantoni said how much she liked and admired him as a person.